

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 L-03 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD;JRICHARDSON:JS

APPROVED BY EB:JLKATZ

USDA/FAS - JRIESZ (PHONE)

EA/ANZ - DWILLIAMS

EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR

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R 100203Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, EAGR, FTRO, AS

SUBJECT: 1975 CARRYOVER OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF

REF: CANBERRA 4795

1. NO DISAGREEMENT EXISTS ABOUT THE 1975/76 CARRYOVER WHICH WAS 49.2 MILLION POUNDS. FOLLOWING SECTION 204 ACTION IN NOVEMBER 1975, 20 MILLION POUNDS OF THIS CARRYOVER WERE HELD IN CUSTOMS BONDED WAREHOUSES UNTIL JANUARY 1. AFTER DECEMBER 16, 29.2 MILLION POUNDS WERE PERMITTED IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD BE FORMALLY ENTERED IN 1976 AND THEREFORE COUNTED AGAINST AUSTRALIA'S 1976 ALLOCATION.

2. DURING MINISTER SINCLAIR'S VISIT, THE ISSUE WHICH AROSE WAS WHETHER AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE AMOUNT OF THE CARRYOVER SHOULD BE MADE DUE TO ALLEGED MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING THE 1974/75 CARRYOVER AND ALLEGED DISCREPANCIES

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IN US DATA IN EXCHANGE FOR AUSTRALIA'S COOPERATION IN

TERMINATING SHIPMENTS INTO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.

3. OUR RESPONSE TO THESE SUGGESTIONS WAS THAT BY ANY OF THE AVAILABLE MEASURES AUSTRALIA EXCEEDED ITS VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ALLOCATION DURING 1975. MOREOVER, TO ADJUST

AUSTRALIA'S 1975/76 CARRYOVER TO OBTAIN THEIR COOPERATION IN THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE MATTER WOULD VIOLATE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND WOULD SET THE UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT OF AUTHORIZING ARBITRARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM.

4. WE BELIEVE TRANSSHIPMENTS THROUGH FOREIGN TRADE ZONES ARE A VIOLATION OF THE INTENT OF THE 1964 MEAT IMPORT ACT. WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY AN AMENDMENT TO THE 1976 AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THAT MEAT SHIPPED BY AUSTRALIA TO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES AFTER A DATE TO BE SPECIFIED WOULD BE COUNTED AS PART OF THEIR ALLOCATION. IN ADDITION, THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE BOARD RESTRICT MEAT PROCESSING IN THESE ZONES IS BEING ACTIVELY EXPLORED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE171148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0213
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760771/aaaacjyw.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CANBERRA 4795
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1975 CARRYOVER OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF
TAGS: EPAP, EAGR, ETRD, AS
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006